

REMARKS

- Claims 2, 4, 5, 10-12, 15, 17 and 18 have been canceled, without prejudice to pursue them in another application
- Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 13, 14, 16 and 19-28 remain pending
- Independent claims 1, 9, 14 and 24 have been amended herein
- Claims 3, 6 & 8 have been amended to depend from Claim 1
- Claim 13 has been amended to depend from Claim 9
- Claim 19 has been amended to depend from Claim 14

The amendments to the claims do not present new matter, nor do they incur the need for a new search. Reconsideration of the patentability of the pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the following discussion.

FINAL REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 4 to 15, 17 to 19, 21 to 26, and 28 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) BASED ON BONORA

Claims 1, 2, 4 to 15, 17 to 19, 21 to 26, and 28 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,788,458 to Bonora (hereinafter "Bonora").

Each of independent Claims 1, 9 and 24, as amended, recite an overhead transfer flange including, *inter alia*, the following features:

 a third side extending from the first side to the second side and including a blade adapted to engage supporting features of the overhead carrier support; and

 a fourth side opposite the third side extending from the first side to the second side and including a blade adapted to engage

supporting features of the overhead carrier support;

*wherein the blades of the third side and the fourth side of the overhead transfer flange extend from the first side to the second side along **non-parallel** paths.*

Independent claim 14, as amended, recites the analogous overhead carrier support including, *inter alia*, the following features:

a third side extending from the first side to the second side and including a channel adapted to engage a first feature of the overhead transfer flange; and

a fourth side opposite the third side extending from the first side to the second side and including a channel adapted to engage a second feature of the overhead transfer flange;

*wherein the **channels** of the third side and the fourth side of the overhead carrier support extend from the first side to the second side along **non-parallel** paths.*

It is submitted that the Bonora reference does not teach (or even suggest) these features of Claims 1, 9, 14 and 24, as amended. It is noted that in the apparatus shown in FIG. 4A of Bonora, the features which the Examiner identifies as blades (130) are parallel with respect to one another and thus, extend from the first side and second side of the top surface (106) along parallel paths. As the above-recited features of independent Claims 1, 9, 14 and 24 are not taught (or even suggested) by Bonora, it is submitted that Bonora does not anticipate these claims, or their dependent Claims 6-8, 13, 19, 21-23 and 25-28 (Claims 2, 4, 5, 10-12, 15, 17 and 18 having been canceled without prejudice).

Withdrawal of the final rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 to 15, 17 to 19, 21 to 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is accordingly respectfully requested.

FINAL REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3, 16 and 20 UNDER 35 U.S.C.

§103(a) BASED ON BONORA AND GRUBER

Claims 3, 16, and 20 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as unpatentable over Bonora in view of Gruber (DE 3703609A1). Claim 3 depends from amended Claim 1, and Claims 16 and 20 depend from amended Claim 14.

As discussed above, Bonora fails to teach or suggest the features of independent Claims 1 and 14, as amended. Further, the Gruber reference fails to cure the deficiencies of the Bonora reference as it merely appears to teach a hook with a 65 degree bend and thus, does not in any way disclose or suggest an overhead transfer flange having blades of the third and fourth sides that extend from the first side to the second side along **non-parallel** paths or an overhead carrier support having third and fourth sides including corresponding **non-parallel** channels for receiving the third and fourth sides of the overhead transfer flange.

It is accordingly submitted that the references relied upon do not teach or suggest the features of independent Claims 1 and 14, and therefore also fails to teach or suggest the features of Claim 3 which depends from Claim 1, and Claims 16 and 20, which depend from Claim 14. Withdrawal of the final rejection of Claims 3, 16 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is accordingly respectfully requested.

**FINAL REJECTION OF CLAIM 27 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) BASED ON
BONORA AND GRUBER**

Claim 27 stands finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as unpatentable over Bonora in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,885,825 issued to Amberg et al. (hereinafter "Amberg").

Claim 27 depends from amended Claim 24. It is submitted that the Amberg reference similarly fails to cure the deficiencies of the Bonora reference discussed above as it does not disclose or suggest an overhead transfer flange having the features recited and discussed above with respect to Claim 24. Accordingly, withdrawal of the final rejection of Claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same.

The Applicants have enclosed herewith a Request for an Extension of Time and authorization to charge the requisite fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1696. The Applicants do not believe any additional Request for Extension of Time is required but if it is, please accept this paragraph as a request for such an Extension of Time and authorization to charge the requisite extension fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

The Applicants do not believe any other fees are due regarding this amendment. If any other fees are required, however, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone
Applicants' attorney should any issues remain.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Santisi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Santisi" being more prominent than the middle initial "M".

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